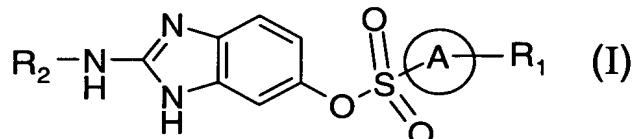


**ABSTRACT**

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The present invention discloses and claims benzimidazole compounds of formula (I):



- in which A is aryl or heteroaryl; R<sub>1</sub> is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl, NH-lower alkyl or NH-cycloalkyl, or halogen, NH<sub>2</sub>; 1-imidazolyl or SO<sub>2</sub>Me; R<sub>2</sub> is selected from optionally substituted -CO-alkyl, -CO-cycloalkyl, -CO-aralkyl, -CO-aryl, -CO-alkoxy, aryl or aralkyl, or -CO-amino, CO-NHR<sub>3</sub> or CO-R<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub> wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are selected independently from hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, fluoroalkyl, alkynyl, heteroalkyl, alkylheteroalkyl, aryl, aralkyl or together form an alkylene chain optionally containing one to 4 heteroatoms; a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a prodrug thereof; the use of compounds of formula (I) for the treatment of cancer, and pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound of formula (I) and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants or diluents.

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